

(a) receiving a request from a buyer for goods or services with a predetermined plurality of criteria related to the goods or services;

(b) selecting at least one seller from a predetermined group of sellers of the goods or services based on the received predetermined plurality of criteria;

(c) transmitting the request of the buyer to the selected at least one seller of the goods or services;

(d) receiving, within a predetermined time interval, responses from the at least one seller to the request;

(e) compiling information provided in the responses received from at least one seller within the predetermined time interval;

(f) ranking the sellers based upon the compiled information including the plurality of criteria and selecting sellers with the relatively highest ranking; and

(g) providing the compiled responses of the selected sellers for access by the buyer.

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19. (Amended) A system for obtaining information for the purchasing of automobiles by prospective buyers comprising:

input means, including a computer, for receiving a request for a desired automobile from a prospective buyer, the request including plurality of predetermined criteria related to the automobile;

selection means, including central computer, for selecting at least two providers from a predetermined group of providers of the automobile based on the plurality of predetermined criteria;

transmission means, including an internet connection, for transmitting the request for the prospective buyer to the selected providers;

reception means, including the central computer, for receiving, within a predetermined time interval, responses from the selected providers;

computation means, including the central computer, for compiling information provided in the response received within the predetermined time interval for ranking the providers based upon the compiled information including the plurality of criteria, and for selecting providers with the relatively highest ranking; and

output means, including an internet connection, for providing the compiled responses of the selected providers for access by the prospective buyer.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claims 1, 10, and 19 are independent claims.